

**Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation**

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution, MS-48

7551 Metro Center Drive, Suite 100 • Austin, Texas 78744-1609

**MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION****PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

Requestor's Name and Address:  EDINBURG REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER 3255 W PIONEER PKWY ARLINGTON TX 76013-4620	MFDR Tracking #:	M4-06-7313-01
	DWC Claim #:	
	Injured Employee:	
Respondent Name and Box #:  Hidalgo County Box #: 21	Date of Injury:	
	Employer Name	
	Insurance Carrier #:	

**PART II: REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY AND PRINCIPLE DOCUMENTATION**

**Requestor's Position Summary:** "Few think that Medicare's reimbursement is Fair and Reasonable, as indicated by the commission's implementation of 140% of Medicare rates for physicians and 213.3% of Medicare rates for free standing surgical centers. The Medicare APC rate for this service is \$1479.58 times 140% is \$2071.41. We only received \$1044.26 in payment for this service-seriously below even the APC rate alone."

**Principle Documentation:**

1. DWC 60 Package
2. Total Amount Sought - \$1,044.26
3. Hospital Bill
4. EOB
5. Medical Records

**PART III: RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY AND PRINCIPLE DOCUMENTATION**

**Respondent's Position Summary:** "Carrier has made, and paid a fair and reasonable amount."

**Principle Documentation:**

1. Response Package

**PART IV: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

Date(s) of Service	Denial Code(s)	Disputed Service	Amount in Dispute	Amount Due
11/14/2005	97, W10, W4	Outpatient Surgery	\$1,044.26	\$0.00
Total Due:				\$0.00

**PART V: REVIEW OF SUMMARY, METHODOLOGY AND EXPLANATION**

Texas Labor Code §413.011(a-d), titled *Reimbursement Policies and Guidelines*, and Division rule at 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1, titled *Use of the Fee Guidelines*, effective May 16, 2002 set out the reimbursement guidelines.

1. For the services involved in this dispute, the respondent reduced or denied payment with reason codes:
  - 97 – "Payment is included in the allowance for another service/procedure."
  - W10 – "No maximum allowable defined by fee guideline. Reimbursement made based on insurance carrier fair and reasonable reimbursement methodology."
  - W4 – "No additional reimbursement allowed after review of appeal/reconsideration."

2. This dispute relates to outpatient surgical services provided in a hospital setting with reimbursement subject to the provisions of Division rule at 28 TAC §134.1, effective May 16, 2002, 27 TexReg 4047, which requires that "reimbursement for services not identified in an established fee guideline shall be reimbursed at fair and reasonable rates as described in the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, §413.011"...
3. Texas Labor Code §413.011(d) requires that fee guidelines must be fair and reasonable and designed to ensure the quality of medical care and to achieve effective medical cost control. The guidelines may not provide for payment of a fee in excess of the fee charged for similar treatment of an injured individual of an equivalent standard of living and paid by that individual or by someone acting on that individual's behalf. It further requires that the Division consider the increased security of payment afforded by the Act in establishing the fee guidelines.
4. Division rule at 28 TAC §133.307(g)(3)(C), effective January 2, 2002, 26 TexReg 10934; amended to be effective January 1, 2003, 27 TexReg 12282; and applicable to disputes filed on or after January 1, 2003 requires the requestor to send additional documentation relevant to the fee dispute including "a statement of the disputed issue(s) that shall include: (i) a description of the healthcare for which payment is in dispute, (ii) the requestor's reasoning for why the disputed fees should be paid or refunded, (iii) how the Texas Labor Code and commission [now the Division] rules, and fee guidelines, impact the disputed fee issues, and (iv) how the submitted documentation supports the requestor position for each disputed fee issue. The request for medical fee dispute resolution was received by the Division on July 31, 2006. Pursuant to 28 TAC §133.307(g)(3), the Division notified the requestor on August 16, 2006 to send the additional required documentation. Review of the submitted documentation finds that the requestor did not state how the Texas Labor Code and Division rules impact the disputed fee issues; or how the submitted documentation supports the requestor's position for each disputed fee issue. The Division concludes that the requestor has not provided documentation sufficient to meet the requirements of Division rule at 28 TAC §133.307(g)(3)(C).
5. Division Rule at 28 TAC §133.307(g)(3)(D), effective January 2, 2002, 26 TexReg 10934; amended to be effective January 1, 2003, 27 TexReg 12282, applicable to disputes filed on or after January 1, 2003, requires the requestor to provide "documentation that discusses, demonstrates, and justifies that the payment amount being sought is a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement in accordance with §133.1 of this title (relating to Definitions) and §134.1 of this title (relating to Use of the Fee Guidelines)". The request for medical fee dispute resolution was received by the Division on July 31, 2006. The requestor's position statement asserts that "Few think that Medicare's reimbursement is Fair and Reasonable, as indicated by the commission's implementation of 140% of Medicare rates for physicians and 213.3% of Medicare rates for free standing surgical centers. The Medicare APC rate for this service is \$1479.58 times 140% is \$2071.41. We only received \$1044.26 in payment for this service-seriously below even the APC rate alone." Review of the documentation finds that the requestor did not discuss or explain how it determined that 140% of the Medicare rate would yield a fair and reasonable reimbursement. Nor did the requestor submit evidence to support the proposed methodology. Nor has the requestor discussed how the proposed methodology would be consistent with the criteria of Labor Code §413.011 or 28 TAC §134.1. Additionally, the requestor did not submit documentation to support the Medicare payment calculation. Thorough review of the documentation submitted by the requestor finds that the requestor has not discussed, demonstrated or justified that payment of the amount sought would be a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement for the services in dispute. The request for additional reimbursement is not supported.
6. The Division would like to emphasize that individual medical fee dispute outcomes rely upon the evidence presented by the requestor and respondent during dispute resolution, and the thorough review and consideration of that evidence. After thorough review and consideration of all the evidence presented by the parties to this dispute, it is determined that the submitted documentation does not support the reimbursement amount sought by the requestor. The Division concludes that this dispute was not filed in the form and manner prescribed under Division rules at 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(g)(3)(C), and §133.307(g)(3)(D). The Division further concludes that the requestor failed to meet its burden of proof to support its position that reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$0.00.

#### **PART VI: GENERAL PAYMENT POLICIES/REFERENCES**

Texas Labor Code § 413.011(a-d), § 413.031 and § 413.0311  
28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307, §134.1  
Texas Government Code, Chapter 2001, Subchapter G

**PART VII: DIVISION DECISION AND/OR ORDER**

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code §413.031, the Division has determined that the Requestor is not entitled to additional reimbursement for the services involved in this dispute.

**DECISION:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorized Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**VIII: YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST AN APPEAL**

Either party to this medical fee dispute has a right to request an appeal. A request for hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the DWC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **20** (twenty) days of your receipt of this decision. A request for hearing should be sent to: Chief Clerk of Proceedings, Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers Compensation, P.O. Box 17787, Austin, Texas, 78744. **Please include a copy of the Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision** together with other required information specified in Division Rule 148.3(c).

Under Texas Labor Code Section 413.0311, your appeal will be handled by a Division hearing under Title 28 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 142 Rules if the total amount sought does not exceed \$2,000. If the total amount sought exceeds \$2,000, a hearing will be conducted by the State Office of Administrative Hearings under Texas Labor Code Section 413.031.

**Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.**